

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 3, beginning on line 9:

However, conventional interior optical cables include a central tension member that has a reduced flexibility and an increased volume, thus being limited in pavement and use. In order to solve the above limitations, an interior optical cable that does not include a central tension member has been proposed.

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Fig. 6 is a graph comparatively showing post-shrinkage rates of the outer coating layers of the conventional interior optical cable and the interior optical cable of the present invention, respectively. The mark (◆■) denotes the post-shrinkage rate of the outer coating layer of the interior optical cable of the present invention manufactured such that the tight buffer optical fiber has the lay ratio of -0.3 to 0.3%. The mark (■▲) denotes the post-shrinkage rate of the outer coating layer of the conventional interior optical cable. The graph of Fig. 6 is obtained by measuring the post-shrinkage rates of the outer coating layers of the interior optical cables, after the interior optical cables are subjected to thermal shock several times due to the variation in external temperature in the range of -45 to 85_degrees, and then returned to room temperature (approximately 23_degrees). The test for measuring the post-shrinkage rates of the outer coating layers of the two interior optical cables shown in Fig. 6 was repeatedly performed seven times.

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With reference to Fig. 6, in the interior optical cable of the present invention, the post-shrinkage rate (■) of the outer coating layer is in the range of 0.4 to 0.6%. In contrast, in the conventional interior optical cable, the post-shrinkage rate (■▲) of the outer coating layer is in the range of 0.8 to 1.2%.

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In order to allow the post-shrinkage rate (■) of the present invention to be in the range of 0.4 ~ 0.6%, the outer coating layer of the interior optical cable produced by extrusion molding is gradually annealed. The annealing process includes three steps, at a temperature of 60 to 85 degrees, a temperature of 35 to 50 degrees, and a temperature of 10 to 30 degrees.

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However, in the conventional interior optical cable, the lay ratio (▲) of the tight buffer optical fiber before the generation of the post-shrinkage of the outer coating layer is in the range of 0.3 to 0.5%. Further, the lay ratio (◆▼) of the tight buffer optical fiber after the generation of the post-shrinkage of the outer coating layer due to the variation in the external temperature and the exposure to the low temperature is in the range of 1.1 to 1.5%. That is, the lay ratio of the tight buffer optical fiber of the conventional interior optical cable is increased by more than 1%. Thus, it serves as a factor for increasing the post-shrinkage rate of the outer coating layer and the optical loss of the interior optical cable.